

**Office of the State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction**

**Advancing Rural Wisconsin State Policy Forum**

Thursday, January 12, and Friday, January 13, 2006  
Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center  
1100 Imperial Avenue \* Mosinee, WI 54455 \* (715) 355-6858 or 1-800-659-2220

Description of the Program

◆ Goals

- (1) To facilitate an interactive policy discussion on issues relating to rural economic and educational development by actively engaging up to 200 people from broad representative interest groups associated with rural schools, libraries, communities, governments, organizations and economic development professionals.
- (2) To explore the development and advancement of a series of policy initiatives that will form an action agenda and written blueprint to guide future efforts.

- ◆ \$50 registration fee to cover the cost of meals.

**Day One - Thursday, January 12, 2006  
Advancing Rural Wisconsin State Policy Forum**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description - Notes</u>
11:45 a.m.	Registration
12:00 noon	Luncheon - all
12:30 p.m.	Informal, table-by-table welcome during luncheon Musical Performance
12:55 p.m.	Break
1:00 p.m.	Opening Comments – Setting the Objectives (5 minutes) - Tony Evers
1:05 p.m.	“Strengthening Ties among Rural Schools, Libraries, and the Communities they Serve” (15 minutes) - Elizabeth Burmaster
1:20 p.m.	“Wisconsin’s Economy – Rural Focus” (40 minutes) - David J. Ward
2:00 p.m.	Question & Answer and Open Discussion (15 minutes) - all

***Day One, Continued - Thursday, January 12, 2006***

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description - Notes</u>
2:15 p.m.	Break (10 minutes)
2:25 p.m.	Focused Small Group Discussion (65 minutes)

***Items Under Consideration***

Small discussion groups are asked to reflect upon David Ward's presentation and comments from the floor.

- What have you heard that had real meaning for you?
- What surprised you?
- What puzzled or challenged you?
- What question would you like to ask now?
- Can we learn anything from success stories or ongoing efforts that we can spread to other districts or regions?
- What actions should be taken to advance the economic condition of the state's rural areas?

Note: Each discussion group should appoint or designate a "recorder" charged with the responsibility to take very brief notes identifying the major issues or topics by name, with any brief supporting comments or rationale also being provided. Each group's report will be collected and compiled for further review and analysis.

3:30 p.m.	"Status Report on National Trends and Conditions" (15 minutes) - Bob Mooneyham
3:45 p.m.	Question & Answer and Open Discussion (15 minutes) - all
4:00 p.m.	"Growing Your Own" – Deb Pickett, Southwest Graphics, Ricky Rolfsmeyer, Wisconsin Rural Challenge, and Bill Conzemius, Department of Public Instruction (25 minutes)
4:25 p.m.	Question & Answer and Open Discussion (20 minutes) - all
4:45 p.m.	Closing Comments - Tony Evers (5 minutes)
4:50 p.m.	Adjourn for the Day Reception and Networking Dinner (on own)

**Day Two - Friday, January 13, 2006**  
**Advancing Rural Wisconsin State Policy Forum**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description - Notes</u>
8:00 a.m.	New Registrations
8:00 a.m.	“Lumberjack” Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order - Tony Evers
8:45 a.m.	“Conditions and Trends Facing Wisconsin’s Rural Communities: What Can Be Done to Strengthen the State’s Rural Economy?” (25 minutes) - Professor Gary Green - Rural Sociology, UW-Madison and UW-Extension
9:10 a.m.	Question & Answer and Open Discussion (10 minutes) - all
9:20 a.m.	Panel Discussion – “Centers of Action and Initiative: How Several Rural Communities Are Organizing” (3 presenters, each at 7 minutes) – David J. Ward to moderate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Dave Dumke – Wisconsin Counties Association</li><li>❖ Cheryl Welch – Director of Workforce Development Board (Fox Cities)</li><li>❖ Jim Golembeski, Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board</li></ul>
10:00 a.m.	Description of Rural Café - Deb Bilzing, Facilitator Rural Café – 3 sessions @ 30 minutes each)

***Rural Café***

Rural Café will utilize techniques popularized in the World Café format to encourage productive and highly-interactive small group discussions. The Café will concentrate attention on key issues relating to the economic health and vitality of the state’s rural areas.

- ❖ *It is now 2011 and Wisconsin has received a national award for outstanding achievement for efforts in promoting our states rural economy and stimulating the success of rural schools and libraries. What did it take for us to achieve this success? What did you do to contributive to this success?*

*Day Two, Continued - Friday, January 13, 2006*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description - Notes</u>
11:45 a.m.	“National Priorities and Perspectives: Why Rural Matters; Why Wisconsin’s Efforts Are Important” - Bob Mooneyham, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association - Norman, Oklahoma
12:00 noon	Luncheon
1:00 p.m.	Recap - Summary of Major Issues and Themes (10 minutes) - David J. Ward
1:10 p.m.	Closing Comments - (5-10 minutes)
1:15-1:20 p.m.	Adjournment